

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

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Agents.—The National Tribune has many volunteer canvassers, and they are generally honest and faithful; but persons who consider their enterprise to them must be their own judges of their responsibility. The paper will be sent only on the receipt of the subscription price.

Address.—Correspondence is solicited from every section in regard to Grand Army, State Veterans, Pension, and Military matters, and letters to the Editor will receive prompt attention. Write on one side of the paper only. We do not return communications of manuscripts unless they are accompanied by a return address and the necessary postage, and under no circumstances guarantee their publication at any special date.

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JOHN McLEOD, ROBERT W. SHOPEL, BYRON ANDREWS.

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NATIONAL TRIBUNE HEADQUARTERS.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE Headquarters at Chicago during the National Encampment will be in Parlor K. Palmer House, and all comrades, their wives and families are cordially invited to call and make themselves at home. They can make appointments to meet their friends there, and have their mail sent to that room in our care.

SENATOR GALLINGER is at his old trick of waiting over the amount spent for pensions, and exaggerating the expensiveness of the bills which have been sent to his Committee.

FOR the first time in the history of the Memphis Postoffice, it was closed on Confederate Memorial Day, by Postmaster Dutro, in honor of the rebel dead. There is no warrant in law for such a thing.

IT is now the beginning of winter in South Africa, but as Roberts is at the 27th parallel of latitude, about equal to the most southern part of Florida, cold weather should not annoy him much.

THE French are believed to be intriguing for possession of the great but tottering Empire of Morocco, which has about as many square miles as California, and an unknown millions of people. It has immense resources, which civilization could develop.

GEN. ALGER promptly shows a clean bill of health, by publishing the President's order putting in the appointments in the Cuban Postal Service under the Postmaster-General.

CAPT. HUGH WILLIAMS, 33d U. S. writes from Vigan, Luzon:

"The wealth of this section is in hemp. It needs no cultivation, and simply tumbles over the hills growing. With \$10,000 one could become a millionaire in 10 years, unless you become as lazy as the people here. The only reason they are not rich is because they won't work any more than will barely support them, and they live on 20 to 15 cents (Mexican)."

THE Sublime Porte seems sublimely indifferent as to what we propose to do about collecting that little bill. We have given our Minister to Turkey indefinite leave of absence, which to any other Nation would be very significant, as showing an interruption to diplomatic relations. But he takes no notice of it, and retains his Minister here.

Postmaster-General Smith, whose paper, the Philadelphia Press, has been so rancorous and unfair toward the veterans and pensioners, and so zealous in the service of Henry Clay Evans, has now a good deal of explaining to make on his own account. He selected and appointed every one of the Cuban rascals, and they were under his supervision.

SOME months ago the Mayor of Atlanta came to Washington and painted the south side of Pennsylvania avenue a very lively red. The news got back to Atlanta, and a Minister preached a good, old-fashioned, somewhat sulphurous sermon on the subject. The best citizens were aroused, and the Mayor promised them to resign. Then he took a sorer second thought—he had gotten sober in the meanwhile—and he told them that he would do nothing of the kind—they could go to. Now the aforesaid best citizens are wondering whether the breach-of-promise law can not be worked in on him.

North Carolina pops up a relic of mediocrity probably as a variant to the numerous nominations of "favorite sons" from every cross-roads for the Vice Presidency. It is a "proclamation of outlawry" against a man named Fort, who does not seem to be at all a favorite son. If he does not surrender for trial by a given date he is pronounced an outlaw, and it will be the duty of any good citizen coming upon him to kill him without any further preliminaries. We shall watch how the old thing works. It may be good to try on wife-beaters, train-wreckers, and fellows who play practical jokes.

ONE of the unexpected developments last week was the enthusiasm of the Southern Baptists, in convention at Hot Springs, Ark., for Expansion. One speaker said: "The war which liberated Cuba was not one of conquest but humanity. Circumstances have brought us Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines, and you can't put the chicken back into the broken egg-shell." Another said: "It seems almost as if the Lord had revealed Himself as an Expansionist, and the Baptist has never yet gone back on revelation." This was the tone of all the speeches, and was received with the greatest enthusiasm. This means something. What the Baptists say in the South goes.

THE NEW PENSION BILL.

We are still waiting for the interpretation which Commissioner Evans will put on the amended act of June 27, 1890. As the fiscal year is now within a few weeks of its close, when substantially all the "savings" that can be made for this Administration will have to be done, we may have to wait a few days longer for any marked change in the direction of liberality, if such is contemplated.

As we have said before, the amendments put no more pressure upon the Commissioner to compel him to do his duty than existed before. He has claimed of late that he has been grouping disabilities, and giving the claimants the benefit of such a course. The amendments merely empower him to do what he at first claimed that he had no power to do, and subsequently that he was doing. Whether he will do it or not, still rests entirely with him. Even the widow's clause only empowers him to do what he had perfect power to do before. A number of other equally nagging requirements remain, and will remain until he decides to remove them.

A matter of much importance now is whether, in the event of a more liberal interpretation of the law, which the action of Congress favors, new applications will have to be filed by those whose claims have been rejected, and also by those whose claims are pending.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE pointed this danger out editorially some months ago, when the amendments were first introduced. But the theory of the G. A. R. Pension Committee and many lawyers was that the amendments being merely changes in the original law, left that law to stand as it otherwise was, and its language would refer to its original passage. They also pointed out the act of March 6, 1896, which was intended to curb Lochren, but which he and Evans have wholly ignored and treated as a dead letter. This reads:

"That whenever a claim for pension under the act of June 27, 1890, has been, or shall hereafter be, rejected, suspended, or dismissed, and a new application shall have been, or shall hereafter be, filed, and a pension has been, or shall hereafter be, allowed in such claim, such pension shall date from the time of filing such first application, provided that the evidence in the case shall show a pensionable disability to have existed, or to exist, at the time of filing such first application, anything in any law or ruling of the Department to the contrary notwithstanding."

If the amendments are to be regarded as enacting an entirely new law in place of the act of June 27, 1890, the act of March 6, 1896, is, of course, a dead letter. Since Evans has always treated it as such, however, the loss is not so material.

If the act of May 9 shall be construed as new legislation, superseding the act of June 27, 1890, and requiring the filing of new claims, and the cutting off of all arrears on those pending or rejected, the responsibility lies with Speaker Henderson and Chairman Sulloway, who rigorously shut off all attempts to amend the bill, and make it cover this danger, as well as make other desired provisions. Representatives Curtis and Calderhead, of Kansas, were particularly strenuous in endeavoring to make these, but were cut off by Speaker Henderson and Chairman Sulloway.

THE CLARK SENATORIAL CASE.

The Clark case has been marked by the sharp practice characteristic of mine-jobbery in the West. Evidently, Clark has been counseled by the high-priced legal sharks that he has employed in accumulating his immense fortune. Nothing could have been more cunning than the devices to which he has resorted to hold his seat. The Committee had unanimously reported against him, and he knew that the Senate would adopt the report by a large majority. The Governor of Montana was adverse to his friend—or at least controllable. Singularly, the Governor of the State had business in San Francisco just at that moment. It may be unjust to the Governor, but people are coming to regard everything in Montana politics as suspicious. The Montana Constitution provides that in the Governor's absence all his powers devolve unreservedly upon the Lieutenant-Governor. He scarcely gets out of the State, when Clark resigns, in order to forestall action upon the Committee's report. It is loose connection all round, and everything is done by telegraph. The President of the Senate orders Clark's name dropped from the roll and this is held to complete the vacancy. The Lieutenant-Governor is notified, and at once appoints Clark to fill the vacancy. It looks as if this puts Clark in the seat and screws him down, and there is much gratulation over the success of the smart trick. But in this case Clark is dealing with men who are as shrewd and resourceful as he is, and very much disinclined to allow a seat in the Senate to be a matter for chicanery. The principle applied in the Quay case is invoked. To this Clark's lawyers answer with more chicanery—probably high-priced. They make the "sharp" point that there was no vacancy when the Legislature was in session—Lee Mantle's term not really expiring until after the Legislature had adjourned. This is merely legal juggling. In the meanwhile the Governor of Montana returns, revokes the appointment, on the ground that it was made through collusion and fraud, and appoints Hon. Martin Maginnis as Senator. This adds immensely to the legal complications, beginning with the question as to his power to revoke an appointment. What the Senate ought to do, and what it probably will do, will be to adopt the Committee's report, sweep the whole mass of dirty entanglements off its docket, and leave the seat vacant until it can be properly filled at the next session of the Montana Legislature. Its own dignity will not permit it to become the prey to practices of mining sharks. Public morality forbids it.

OUR NATIONAL CHARACTER.

OUR National character has been fearfully blackened in the eyes of the whole world by the rascalities of Rathbone, Neely, et al., and we owe it to ourselves to make an example of them.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The utter collapse of the Boer aggressiveness is most remarkable. Roberts is moving scattered columns whither he will along a front that must be more than 200 miles wide without even one of his smallest and most isolated parties meeting any resistance. He sent a small cavalry column of hundreds of miles to the relief of Mafeking, and it encountered no trouble in its long ride. Buller is moving unopposed up the railroad to the east, and will join Roberts just before the latter reaches Pretoria. There is no present explanation for this except complete discouragement on the part of the Boers, but there seems no ground for such a subject depression. They have suffered no such severe blows as would justify them in losing all heart. We have been hurt proportionately much worse many times in our history without its taking the fight out of us. It is astonishing that nowhere among them has developed any even subordinate leader—some Captain or Lieutenant, even—who would go out with a few men and attack some outpost or small British party, and start the current the other way, to encourage his people. There must have been thousands of these opportunities offered in the way that Roberts has been scattering his men to make flank movements, reconnoiter, and bring up trains, which a daring and enterprising young leader would have improved. It is hard to think of an enemy moving through our country as Roberts is doing through South Africa, without small squads of men harrying him at every step and from every direction. We encountered that sort of thing in the South up to the very day of surrender.

THE G. A. R.'s contribution of a splendid statue of Gen. U. S. Grant to the National Capital reminds us again of the singular lack in Washington of any memorial whatever to the private soldiers and sailors who saved the Nation, and made illustrious the men whose statues adorn the city. In this respect Washington is far behind the majority of County Seats in the North, especially in the older and wealthier parts of the country. Great numbers of these have erected beautiful memorials to their soldiers and sailors who followed the flag of the country, and which, compared to the wealth of the people of the County, represent an expenditure that would be equal to millions of dollars by the Government. But the visitor to Washington sees only statues to Generals and Admirals—nothing anywhere to men of lower rank. This is a National reproach, and the Grand Army of the Republic, the W. R. C., the Ladies of the G. A. R., the Loyal Legion, and the Sons of Veterans should unite in devoting themselves to seeing that this reproach is taken away by as splendid a memorial as money and art can produce.

TAKING what might be termed a States' Rights view of the question, the Supreme Court has dismissed the appeal of Gov. Taylor, of Kentucky, on the ground of want of jurisdiction. The majority of the Court holds that Kentucky is a State, in the full and free exercise of all her rights and powers. She has settled the question of the Governorship according to her laws, and the Supreme Court has, therefore, no right to interfere. Justices Brewer, Brown and McKenna dissented from portions of this opinion, and Justice Harlan made a most vigorous dissent. He based his dissent on the Fourteenth Amendment, which prohibits taking away any man's life, liberty or property without due process of law. He claimed that the right to hold an office to which he had been duly elected was one of the dearest possessions of a citizen, and that the Legislature of Kentucky, in utter defiance of law and of right, and contempt of all evidence, had taken away from Gov. Taylor the office to which he had been elected, and that this action nearly concerned the liberties of the whole people.

WHILE the proportions of the Cuban

steal have fallen far short of the exaggerations of the sensational papers, it is infinitely large, and will reach a quarter of a million dollars. The disclosures are sickening. Rathbone, Neely, and their subordinates, sent to have gone to the island with a premeditation to loot it, and they went to work with an audacity as shameless as their Spanish predecessors. The Administration is showing a commendable vigor in probing the matter to the bottom, and we believe will bring every rascal to deserved punishment. This can hardly be made too severe. We owe this to the good name of the country, which has been so sadly tarnished by these scoundrels, and it is necessary, at the outset of our colonial policy, that by exemplary punishment we warn officials that island offices must be administered with as rigorous honesty as domestic ones.

THE Philadelphia Press, Postmaster-General Smith's paper, published a statement that Commissioner Evans had resigned. In an interview with a reporter, Mr. Evans said:

"There is not a scintilla of truth in the report. I not only have not resigned, but I do not propose to. I shall serve out my term as Commissioner of Pensions. According to reports, I have resigned at least once a month during the past two years. No; there is no prospect of my leaving my official duties. There is no friction anywhere, and I am working along, endeavoring to do my duty."

Probably the Press was far nearer the truth than Evans. The Press has been a stronghold of Evans, but now everybody feels that he is an incubus on the Republican party and wants to get rid of him. Evans is talking the same way as he did about his Tennessee defeat.

THERE can be no praise too high for the little garrison of Mafeking, which for seven long months maintained an obstinate defense against a large force of Boers. It is true that the Boers showed an astonishing incapacity for siege operations, but this does not diminish the credit due the defenders, who were nearly all civilians, and greatly outnumbered from the start. The Boers should have taken the place inside of a week, and an equal number of American militia would certainly have done so.



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The Boys Secure Another Supply of Food.

Si and Shorty took a few minutes, after getting well into the shelter of the locust thicket, to give way to a joyful feeling over being at length across the Mason Railroad. They felt that they had entered upon the half of their long journey, and had but a short way to go to the hill before the difficulties and dangers that they had encountered so far. In spite of the dark clouds and the drenched earth, the outlook seemed very bright.

A deep gully ran down from higher ground. This was heavily bordered on both sides with young locusts, and Si led his party down to the hill before the difficulties and dangers that they had encountered so far. In spite of the dark clouds and the drenched earth, the outlook seemed very bright.

"I can see another creek about a half-mile further on," said Shorty. "They'd 'a' had to go to rights if we'd stayed on that side. They'll get them two grog-grubbers sure 's little apples."

"Well," said Si, with a tone of satisfaction, "I'll take 'em all evening, and probably all night, to find out we ain't there. That's a good deal of country for that crowd to skimp over. If they don't catch them Georgians they won't find out nothing about us until they have gone through that whole neck o' woods—maybe not until tomorrow morning. In the meanwhile we'll be hunting the north star and putting a spear point between them and us."

"Everybody's over there," said Shorty. "Let's hike ahead while yet. There's a good deal of ground to go, and let's make it up. Every mile that we can make now counts."

The crest of the hill showed northward and was thickly covered with woods, through which, however, they could walk with comparative ease while the light lasted. But in spite of Si's eagerness to get ahead he began to feel very hungry. He had had nothing to eat since morning, and not a very satisfactory meal, that. He knew that the rest must be even hungrier—they always were, and with their hunger would come weakness and inability to do anything. Something must be done to get food, and at once it should be done.

From the top of the hill he could see farms and farmhouses in the distance, and there was food; but none of his old-fashioned Georgians would have been so ready to go to a farm to keep out of sight.

When he realized that he was hungry, he became all at once very hungry—famished. He had had nothing to eat since morning, and not a very satisfactory meal, that. He knew that the rest must be even hungrier—they always were, and with their hunger would come weakness and inability to do anything. Something must be done to get food, and at once it should be done.

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